

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Members Present: S. Stearns (Chair), C. Kueffner, T. Wollen, D. Dorfer, N. Rawn

Members Absent: E. Hall (alt.) M. Tindall (alt.)

Staff Present: J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stearns called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Minutes for May 19th meeting reviewed- T. Wollen motioned to approve the minutes and C. Kueffner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

a. Outreach and marketing

J. Kaufman reported that the *Guide to Farm Fresh Food in Northeastern CT* was published and distributed to farmers through email and also through print copies mailed to them. The Committee congratulated Jiff Martin on this beautiful and informative publication.

b. Taste of Mansfield

J. Kaufman reported that the *Taste of Mansfield* has a new intern and produced new signs to be displayed by farms, farm stands and at the Farmers Market. Jiff Martin will also host a virtual event, a Basic 101 program on how to find farm fresh food in Mansfield. The event will be listed in the Parks and Rec brochure.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Regional Economic Development Strategy

Comments and suggestions on the agriculture section of the report were solicited from the committee:

- The committee felt that the suggestions in the report were “very broad”.
- D. Dorfer suggested that the report should encourage the organic side of farming in order to preserve the natural resources that it thought were an asset in these towns.
- The report mentioned “equipment sharing” as a way to assist smaller farms- D. Dorfer commented that there would need to be a “hub” and an administrator for this to be effective.
- The committee highly approved of the idea of supporting farm collaboration and bringing together farmers from these towns to share ideas and resources
- The committee stated that a regional implementer should:
 - Encourage the Culture of Agriculture in these towns by supporting Youth Gardening
 - Raising the awareness of all stakeholders as to the producers and resources in the region
 - Foster diversity and inclusion amongst both producers and consumers

-The committee suggested that the following be added to the resources section:

CT NOFA
 GROW WINDHAM (under the community garden section)
 Existing resources, such as the FRESH PLEASE app, as a way for consumers to access fresh food
 The E.O. Smith Ag Program
 Willimantic Food Coop
 Taste of Mansfield
 AGvocate Program

C. Kueffner made a motion to accept this list of suggestions and allow Jennifer and Stacey to submit them in a formal letter. T. Wollen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. CT DoAG Farm Viability Grant

J. Kaufman reported that the grant was awarded and that the \$25,000 would support food boxes and partner shares from local farms through pilot program run by Human Services.

c. Membership

S. Stearn announced that Jeremy Jeliffe submitted a resignation letter. She confirmed that N. Rawn and M. Tindall will become regular members. There will be three openings for alternates. She is open to suggestions from the committee.

No new reports or communications.

FUTURE MEETINGS

J. Kaufman reported that the committee will not have regular meetings due to Covid. They will meet only when there are specific actions to be taken.

Kueffner moved to adjourn at 3:15. Wollen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

N. Rawn

Acting Secretary